

The magnitude of the threats we face presents too great a risk to the Nation's security given our current strength of active duty military.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we all hope and pray we never have to make need of these additional troops. But knowing we have a larger Armed Force if the urgency arises should help us all sleep a little better at night, including General Cody and his sons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGALLS of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the special order time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

IN SUPPORT OF LIEUTENANT PANTANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Saturday was the final day of the Article 32 hearing for a Marine facing murder charges for actions he took against Iraqi insurgents in self-defense.

As I have discussed at length, a year ago in Iraq, Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano made a split-second battlefield decision to shoot two Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Two and a half months later, a sergeant under his command, who never even saw the shooting and who was earlier demoted by Pantano for his lack of leadership abilities, accused him of murder. Now the case is in the hands of a hearing officer who must determine whether Lieutenant Pantano will face a court-martial.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, as I have many other nights and days, in support of Lieutenant Pantano. I have always maintained the innocence of Lieutenant Pantano, and I believe last week's hearings produced information that will ultimately prove his innocence. During the hearing, it became clear that the sergeant who accused Lieutenant Pantano of these actions was not a credible witness. This sergeant had been demoted for his inaccuracies as a leader. While testifying last week, he was forced to admit that he disobeyed recent orders not to grant interviews regarding this case.

Mr. Speaker, how can these charges move forward when this primary witness is someone who did not actually see the shooting and who cannot stick to one story about the series of events that took place?

I continue to maintain that Lieutenant Pantano is an exceptional Marine. During last week's proceedings, many Marines and sailors testified to his outstanding leadership; and not one person, aside from Sergeant Coburn, doubted the lieutenant's decision-making ability. I certainly hope that last week's proceedings will finally bring out the truth in this case.

General Huck has the ultimate say in whether these charges move forward to a court-martial. General Huck will evaluate the evidence that has been presented in this case. I believe the evidence will justify the immediate dismissal of all charges against Lieutenant Pantano so that he may return to duty and serve the corps and the country he loves so deeply.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to ask my colleagues to research this case and consider supporting House Resolution 167, my resolution to support Lieutenant Pantano as he faces this battle. I encourage all Members to visit his mother's Web site, www.defendthedefenders.org, and learn more about this fine young man. I would be proud to call him my son or my son-in-law.

We cannot send the wrong message to our men and women in uniform. To instill doubt into the minds of our Nation's defenders places their lives and the security of our Nation in jeopardy.

In conclusion, I want to briefly mention another Marine who was facing similar murder charges for actions he took in Iraq that were actually on videotape. Yesterday he was cleared of wrongdoing after the Naval Criminal Investigative Service determined that he acted in self-defense. In a statement, Major General Richard Natonski, the commanding general of the First Marine Division, said the Marine's actions were "consistent with the established rules of engagement and the law of armed conflict." Mr. Speaker, I hope that this Marine's case will serve as a precedent for the hearing officer reviewing Lieutenant Pantano's case, where there is not only no video evidence, there is not even one eyewitness.

I have the utmost faith and confidence in the United States Marine Corps that in the next few days there will once again be a decision made that will correct a wrong and allow Lieutenant Pantano to continue with his career.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an endorsement of House Resolution 167 by the Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Incorporated, Los Angeles, California, that asks President Bush, the House, and the Senate to please support H. Res. 167.

I close by asking the good Lord to please give strength to the Pantano

family, that the good Lord be with our men and women in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

ASSOCIATION FOR

LOS ANGELES DEPUTY SHERIFFS, INC.,
Los Angeles, California, April 14, 2005.

Re Endorsement of House Resolution 167.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: As members of the Board of Directors of an organization that represents approximately 7000 sworn Deputy Sheriffs and District Attorney Investigators, we know firsthand just how difficult it is for those engaged in military or law enforcement service to protect the public as well as maintain their own safety. We also recognize that the public is frequently unaware of the extreme difficulty placed upon those who serve in military or para-military organizations which often requires that irreversible, life and death decisions be made within fractions of a second.

We are certain that you are fully knowledgeable of the incident that gave rise to House Resolution 167 as well as the circumstances that propelled this matter into the public spotlight. We are also familiar with your unflagging record of support and respect for the men and women in uniform that proudly serve this great nation. Certainly, no one is better acquainted with their heroic exploits and the extreme difficulty in which they have been placed than the President of the United States.

Therefore, in keeping with House Resolution 167, we respectfully request that you employ your power as Commander in Chief to cause all charges against Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano to be dismissed.

If there is anything that you believe that this Association can do to assist in this matter, please let us know.

Sincerely,

ROY BURNS,
President.
STEVE REMIGE,
Vice President.
ARMANDO MACIAS,
Secretary.
FLOYD HAYHURST,
Treasurer.
ROBERT CONNOR,
Director.
GEORGE HOFSTETTER,
Director.
BRIAN ROGGE,
Director.

SMART SECURITY AND MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday was the second anniversary of President Bush's now infamous "Mission Accomplished" speech in which he declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq under an arrogant banner declaring that the mission had been "accomplished." I do not know the President's definition of the word "accomplished," but I think just about anyone who is asked would say that the mission is very far from being accomplished in Iraq.

Let us consider the facts. To date, nearly 1,600 American soldiers have been killed in this war. Estimates of

Iraqi sources suggest that between 21,000 and 25,000, at least, Iraqi civilians have been killed as well, with hundreds more injured and dying weekly. And nearly 12,000 American troops have suffered severe injuries as a result of the continuing major combat operations. The vast majority of all these casualties occurred and continue to occur after the President delivered his "Mission Accomplished" speech.

We need to consider what is happening every single day on the ground in Iraq. The newspapers provide news daily of the latest disaster caused by vicious Iraqi militants. Every day dozens of innocent people are being killed. To my colleagues who claim that the newspapers are biased and do not present the positive news stories out of Iraq, I would say that it is pretty hard to be positive when they are surrounded by violence.

Iraq is currently embroiled in a dangerous cycle of daily car bombings, roadside hijackings, and murders of innocents. Just yesterday, for instance, 45 Iraqis were killed in a bomb attack in the northern city of Irbil. This latest attack brings the death toll in the past week alone to a staggering 190 innocent Iraqi civilians. What an utter shame. How could anyone possibly refer to what is happening in Iraq as "mission accomplished"? The only thing that is accomplished is the utter collapse of order in Iraqi society.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way than our current dangerous pattern of invading countries and leaving them in chaos. That is why I will reintroduce the SMART Security Resolution for the 21st Century next week. SMART stands for a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. And it represents a better, smarter approach to diplomacy than our current failed foreign policies.

The SMART approach provides a more effective national strategy, a strategy focused on nonproliferation, conflict prevention, international diplomacy, and international involvement. Instead of advocating preemptive war, SMART utilizes military action only, and only, after all diplomatic alternatives have been attempted and exhausted and only when it is absolutely necessary.

SMART pursues diplomacy over hostile rhetoric; enhanced weapons inspections over half-cocked, misleading allegations; and support for nonproliferation initiatives here at home rather than the buildup of new nuclear weapons like the bunker-buster bomb. SMART security means creating a robust civil society to ensure that Iraq's economic and physical infrastructure become fully viable.

We need to consider the impact of the war in Iraq on the Iraqi people, the terrible death and destruction that it is causing every single day. And we need to think about the war in terms of how it hinders America's security for our future. Each day this war encourages a new generation of terrorists who are

getting stronger and stronger. Their common bond is their hatred of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, of course the security of the American people is of the utmost importance, especially in the post-September 11 world. But as the world's largest democracy, we have a responsibility to interact with other nations in a smarter way, by utilizing all diplomatic possibilities before resorting to force. While it may be frustrating and time consuming to negotiate with other countries over disagreements, cooperating with the international community will make the world more peaceful and Americans far safer than aggressive unilateralism.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE REAL ID ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the House and Senate are finally taking the first small step in decades to address the hordes of criminal illegal immigrants who are undermining our Nation's laws, our culture, and our economy.

We have agreed to pass the REAL ID Act as part of emergency supplemental appropriations. REAL ID holds the promise of attacking, finally, the underground fake ID industry in this country. This important legislation asks States to implement tough new standards for issuing driver's licenses, that is, if they want their State driver's licenses to be accepted as legitimate identification for Federal purposes. This bill does not force States to do so, nor does this bill implement a new national ID.

The opponents of immigration reform, those who really want opened borders, are now screaming that this bill is "too expensive" and will "backlog" the driver's license application process of legal Americans.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported yesterday the concerns of one bureaucrat at the National Conference of State Legislators. He complained that the REAL ID would cost States \$500 million to implement. But my home State of Georgia, like many others, already require many of the standards in this bill. So this figure is very questionable, extremely questionable. But for the sake of argument, let us accept that figure as valid.

Would it be worth \$500 million to have avoided 9/11? The 19 attackers who killed 3,000 Americans in New York and

Washington on that day had 63 driver's licenses between them, which they used, as we all know, to board the airliners they crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. \$500 million would be the deal of the century to have avoided the loss of all these Americans.

Beyond our battle against terror, this bill addresses a growing threat to our very culture, to our way of life, and the reasons that people all over the world want to come here to start with. We are a Nation that respects the law, abhors corruption and graft. And as a result, we have built the greatest economy on Earth by having established a firm foundation of public honesty; reliable documents; trustworthy personal, business, and official records. Those standards are in stark contrast to most of the Third World, where graft and cronyism and corruption are the norm. That is why people from those countries want out, because they cannot feed themselves under the economic conditions created by this corruption.

But illegal immigrants begin their journey by bringing that corruption to this country, by intentionally violating our immigration laws and crossing our borders illegally, and with the help of their own corrupt government. Once here, they continue the process by falsifying identification documents, which they then use to corrupt our public records at both the State and Federal level.

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In the process, they have created an underground criminal industry based on graft and deceit, with the sole purpose of undermining the public records of this Nation.

To allow this to continue would be far more damaging than just allowing false information. It would allow a culture of corruption to take seed and grow in this country, until the weeds of graft choke the economy and the public integrity of America, as it has the nations that the illegal immigrants flee from, especially south of us.

I urge the Senate, I urge the Senate to join us in passing this essential first effort against illegal immigration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGALLS of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.